

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-20 remain pending. Applicants have amended claim 20 and canceled claim 21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Title/Drawings

In response to the objection to the title, Applicants have amended the title of the invention to read --System and Apparatus for Providing Synthesized Images Using Templates According to Photography Location--. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the title of the invention be withdrawn.

Although not specifically indicated in the Office Action, it is Applicants' understanding that the drawings are acceptable based on a telephone conversation with the Examiner on June 6, 2007.

Rejection Under 35 USC § 101

Claims 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. More specifically, as set forth on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that these claims are directed to a computer program *per se*.

In this Reply, Applicants have amended claim 20 to specify a computer readable medium as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 21 has been canceled.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by Weston et al. (USP 6,608,563). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a system for providing synthesized images. The system of claim 1 comprises: a plurality of cameras for photographing subjects and obtaining image data sets, provided at predetermined locations; a transmitting means for transmitting the image data sets, provided at each of the plurality of cameras; an image managing means for storing the image data sets, which have been transmitted by the transmitting means; a subject specifying means, for specifying the subjects which are pictured in the image data sets; a template managing means for storing template data sets, which are to be synthesized with the image data sets; an image searching means for searching among the image data sets, which are stored in the image managing means, for image data sets, in which the subjects specified by the subject specifying means are pictured; an image synthesizing means for generating synthesized image data sets, by synthesizing image data sets, which have been located by the image searching means, with predetermined template data sets from among the template data sets, which are stored in the template managing means, according to the photography location of the image data sets, in a predetermined layout; and an output means, for outputting the synthesized image data sets.

“Templates” according to the present invention have pictures and text, as well as regions into which photographs are to be embedded. More specifically, these “templates” provide a bases for combining a plurality of photographs into a single image. As illustrated for example in Fig. 9,

a template T001 combines a plurality of photographs A001, B001, and C001 into a single image with text and graphics. According to the invention of claim 1, an image synthesizing means obtains template data sets as corresponding to the photography locations of image data sets obtained by an image searching means. The located image data sets and the template data sets are synthesized in predetermined layouts, and the output means outputs the synthesized image data sets. Thus, synthesized images are provided in which the user's photography images are synthesized with predetermined templates corresponding to the user's photography location, as illustrated for example in Fig. 9.

Weston discloses a system for automatic photo image capture and retrieval, in which photography subjects, such as guests 125 in an entertainment park, are provided RFID tags so that photographs taken of the subject at various events can be indexed and organized into an album. See e.g. abstract, col. 3, line 38-col. 4, line 8. Weston discloses that the background for such images can be changed, for example to create a personalized "comic book" using the images captured at various photographing sites throughout the park. See e.g., Col. 5, line 25 – Col. 6, lines 17. Weston fails to teach, however, varying templates as described above depending on the photography location as specified in claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Weston fails to anticipate claim 1 or any claim depending therefrom. Furthermore, independent claims 19 and 20 define over Weston for similar reasons to those set forth above with respect to claim 1.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection based on Weston.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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